

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1-43 and add claims 44-62

1-43 Canceled

44. (New) A method of preparing a processed food for heating or cooking in a microwave oven, the method comprising including in the food an effective amount of a bean powder selected from the group consisting of lima bean powder and deodorised bean powders.

45. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which the processed food comprises a coating or batter and the bean powder is included in that coating or batter or in which the processed food comprises pastry and the bean powder is included in that pastry.

46. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which the method of preparing the food involves preparing a dough and the bean powder is included in that dough or in which the bean powder is dusted onto the exterior surface of the food, or in which the food is prepared and is then chilled or frozen.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46 in which the food is prepared and then baked or fried prior to being chilled or frozen.

48. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which the food is a processed food selected from the group consisting of puff pastry products, pasta, pies, rolls and slices with both sweet and savoury fillings or toppings, bread, including crusty bread products, baguettes, loaves and rolls, garlic bread, soft bread products, fruited buns, hot dog rolls, burger buns, baps and naan bread, pitta bread, tortilla wraps and pizzas, pizza bases, topped pizzas, batters for Yorkshire pudding, choux buns, nuggets, fritters, crumpets, cakes, sponge cakes, puddings, potato products, roast potatoes, French fries, potato wedges waffles, potato croquettes and shaped potato products, baked or fried filo pastries, spring rolls, samosas, parcels, morning goods including croissants, Danish pastries, doughnuts, shortcrust pastries, including pies and crumbles (with both sweet and savoury fillings), bread crumb for coating, and crumb coated meat, fish or poultry pieces or products, including shaped meat, fish or poultry products such as fingers or nuggets.

49. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which the bean powder is included in a proportion of from 0.15 to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the food.

50. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which a water absorbent vegetable fibre is included with the bean powder, wherein the water absorbent vegetable potato fibre which is included at from 1 to 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which one or more inorganic calcium compounds are included with the bean powder, wherein the inorganic calcium compound is

calcium carbonate which is included at from 1 to 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

52. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which a modified cellulose is included with the bean powder, wherein the modified cellulose is included at between 1 and 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 44 in which water absorbent vegetable fibre, one or more inorganic calcium compounds and modified cellulose are included with the bean powder.

54. (New) A food additive composition comprising a bean powder selected from the group consisting of lima bean powder and deodorised bean powders, and at least one further component selected from the group consisting of a water absorbent vegetable fibre, an inorganic calcium compound and modified cellulose.

55. (New) A food additive composition according to claim 54 which comprises water absorbent vegetable fibre, in which the water absorbent vegetable fibre is potato fibre and the potato fibre is present in an amount of 1 to 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

56. (New) A food additive composition as claimed in claim 54 which comprises an inorganic calcium compound, wherein the inorganic calcium compound is calcium carbonate and wherein the calcium carbonate is present in an amount of 1 to 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

57. (New) A food additive composition as claimed in claim 54 which comprises modified cellulose, in which the modified cellulose is present at from 1 to 50% by weight based on the weight of the bean powder.

58. (New) A processed food comprising a food additive composition comprising a bean powder selected from the group consisting of lima bean powder and deodorised bean powders, and at least one further component selected from the group consisting of a water absorbent vegetable fibre, an inorganic calcium compound and modified cellulose.

59. (New) A processed food as claimed in claim 58 packaged in a microwave heatable packaging material.

60. (New) A processed food as claimed in claim 59 in which the packaging utilises susceptor technology.

61. (New) A processed food as claimed in claims 58 which comprises the bean powder or the food additive composition as a dusting or coating.

62. (New) A processed food according to claim 58 wherein the processed food is selected from the list consisting of a base dough formulation comprising the food additive composition in an amount of 0.5 to 5.0% based on the total weight of the dough, a base batter formulation comprising the food additive composition in an amount of from 0.75 to 8.5% based on the total weight of the dough, a base potato dough formulation comprising the food additive composition in an amount of from 0.5% to 3.0% by weight based on the total weight of the dough and a filling or topping for a dough product comprising the food additive composition in an amount of from 1.0% to 5.0% by weight based on the total weight of the filling or topping.